

STATEMENT OF
CLIFFORD J. WHITE III
ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR UNITED STATES TRUSTEES

AT THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF
“OPERATION TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES”

WASHINGTON, DC
OCTOBER 18, 2006

Good afternoon. I am Cliff White, Acting Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees.

The U.S. Trustee Program is the component of the Department of Justice whose mission is to protect the integrity of the bankruptcy system. Central to that mission is the enforcement of the civil and criminal bankruptcy laws.

Bankruptcy fraud must not be tolerated if our bankruptcy system is to serve its purpose of helping the honest debtor in need of financial relief. “Operation Truth or Consequences” highlights the commitment of the Department of Justice and our law enforcement partners to vigorously investigate and prosecute bankruptcy fraud wherever it occurs.

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new Bankruptcy Fraud Internet “Hotline” to augment our criminal enforcement efforts. This Hotline provides a more central mechanism for the public to report instances of bankruptcy fraud and abuse. We believe it will be helpful in our efforts to police the integrity of the system.

The graphic here on the stage depicts a new notice that appears on the U.S. Trustee Program's Internet home page. By clicking on the box, an individual is directed to a page on the Web site that details the type of information that is important for us to know and provides an email link to submit information related to a suspected bankruptcy fraud.

All "tips" received via the Hotline will be reviewed by U.S. Trustee Program staff. Enforcement actions will be taken as appropriate, including referrals to the FBI or United States Attorneys' offices.

I want to thank the United States Attorneys from the many districts represented in Operation Truth or Consequences, as well as our law enforcement partners, for their support and assistance in ensuring the integrity of the bankruptcy system.

Let me turn the podium back to the Deputy Attorney General.

#